

er a single, solitary second reading bill ten days prior to final adjournment, and devote that time to the consideration of conference reports and the adjudication of differences between the two houses.

"Made a Moral Issue."

The race course bill has gone over to the senate. It went over exactly as it was framed by the friends of the measure. No interference or amendment was permitted on the part of any one not entirely friendly to the legislation. As Mr. Vander Horst expressed it, "it was a moral issue, or at least it was made so," and he realized that there was absolutely no possibility of defeating or amending the bill as long as the members conceived that it was a moral issue, and that it would be so regarded by the people at home.

Many Local Measures.

The house has acted upon a great number of local measures, and a matter of particular significance in connection with these measures is the tendency towards bonds issues for permanent improvements, such as the development of municipal enterprises, the building of public structures, or the improvement of county roads. There are, in the same connection, two larger issues presented for consideration; one looking to a vote by the people in the next general election on a proposed bond issue of a million dollars for the completion and development of the new property of the State Hospital for the Insane, and a second bond issue to be submitted to the people of a million dollars for the extension and improvement of the State house.

State Warehouse Bill.

Perhaps the most important matter to be acted upon during the present week is the State warehouse proposition which had its inception in the Pee-Dee section. It is a somewhat noteworthy feature of this contemplated and important scheme that it has never yet been reported upon by the judiciary committee of either the house or senate as to how far it involves the credit of the State, or the legal limitations of the constitution. The bill in the house was referred to the committee on ways and means, very probably because of Section 17, which provides: "The sum of \$5,000 is hereby appropriated for the contingent expenses of said board, and the sum of \$250,000 to carry out the purposes of this act is hereby appropriated." The senate has passed the bill and the outlook is that it will be passed by the house in very much the same way. Of course, the direct appropriation of a quarter of a million dollars for the starting of the undertaking will have to be met in the appropriation bill.

Funding of State Debt.

Under the bill providing for the redemption of the nearly six million dollars 4 1-2 per cent. Brown consol bonds, the tax exemption clause as applied to banks is eliminated. Of course, if the State is unable to "float" a 4 per cent. bond without the tax exemption clause, at par, the present "Brown" bonds are to continue in force, except what are redeemed, for another 20 years after 1913. The bonds are known as 20-40-year bonds with the privilege of redemption at the end of the 20-year period. Those in authority figure that they can "float" a 4 per cent. gold bond with ease in 1913.

Dispensary Elections.

The chances are that there will be no liquor legislation at this session unless it be the adoption of a general bill permitting elections in the various counties. The disposition is to keep the dispensary and prohibition issues out of the primary. The bills that were pending provided for dispensary elections on the day set for the general primary. This it is thought may cloud the primary issues and involve complications and it appears to be generally understood that if counties want to hold elections to get back their dispensaries they must do so on the day set for the general election. Others contend that the counties that voted themselves "dry" had better wait the full four-year period and then hold their elections.

School Medical Inspection.

One of the very best statutes likely to result from the present session is what is known as the school medical inspection bill. The two houses have passed such measures and the only question now is how the two branches will agree on the minor differences. The idea of medical examination of school children has been main-

Appropriation Bill in House.

The total appropriation of \$1,000,000 in round numbers, and the very of 5 3-4 mills,

the general appropriation bill was transmitted to the house of representatives from the ways and means committee. Mr. L. J. Browning, chairman of the committee, deserves especial credit for bringing in this most important feature of the session's work on record time, there being still at least two weeks of the session in which consider it and to give the governor opportunity to use the paring knife, if he so desires, before the session closes.

The expenses for the various departments run about as usual. There is provided this year special appropriations for a new auditorium at the University of South Carolina, \$50,000, of which \$25,000 is payable out of this year's taxes and \$25,000 next year, and for an industrial arts and science building at Winthrop, \$40,000, of which \$20,000 is to come from this year's taxes.

Some of the items of the bill are as follows: Governor's office, \$13,480; Secretary of State's office, \$8,320; comptroller general's office, \$10,600; insurance commissioner's office, \$10,240; State treasurer's office, \$8,642.35; attorney general's office, \$7,845; railroad commissioners' office, \$11,570; chief game warden, \$2,900; State librarian's office, \$1,800; State geologist's office, \$1,762.53; public buildings (maintenance fund), \$71,023.13; judicial department, \$99,296; board of medical examiners, \$2,500; health department, \$24,509.20; tax department, \$81,485.14; University of South Carolina, \$98,298.78; Winthrop Normal and Industrial college, \$152,531.29; the Citadel, \$57,266.61; Institute for Education of Deaf, Dumb and Blind, \$35,000; State Negro college, \$16,500; South Carolina Industrial school, \$26,000; State Hospital for the Insane, \$283,050; State penitentiary, \$6,560; pensions, \$268,000; historical commission, \$5,503.53; interest on bonded debt, \$295,980.83; elections, \$45,485; miscellaneous, \$62,037.50; senate, \$15,186.43; house of representatives, \$32,904.70; department of agriculture, commerce and industries, \$22,020; other educational purposes, \$148,773.70; State superintendent of education's office, \$9,270; adjutant general's office, \$18,570.

WAREHOUSE BILL.

Provides for System to Handle and Store Cotton—Commission to Be in Control.

The bill introduced in the senate by J. B. Green, senator from Marlboro, to create and operate a State warehouse system for storing cotton, passed the senate Friday night and was ordered sent to the house. This measure was first read on January 15, referred to the committee on agriculture and was reported back favorably.

Under the provisions of the bill there are to be three commissioners to be elected by the general assembly, and they are to be known as the State warehouse commission. The term of office shall be for two, four and six years, the terms of each to be decided by lot. The chairman will be designated by the general assembly.

The board of commissioners is empowered to appoint a manager for the warehouse, cotton graders and all such other help that is necessary. The chairman will have a clerk at a compensation of \$1,000 a year for the work not connected with the board of commissioners, and the chairman will receive a salary of \$2,100 a year and the other commissioners are to receive \$6 a day for the actual number of days worked, also ten cents a mile for the actual mileage traveled. The salaries of all others connected with the warehouse system will be fixed by the board.

To Issue Bonds.

The commission is empowered to issue bonds, payable 30 years after date, and such bonds are created a lien on all of the real estate acquired by the warehouse commission. The bill provides that these bonds will in no way be a debt or an obligation on the State of South Carolina, but will be a specific lien on the warehouse property. The warehouse capacity must be 200,000 bales.

The bill provides for a contingent fund of \$5,000 for the board, and \$250,000 is appropriated to carry out the provisions of the act.

Section seven provides that "all lint cotton properly baled shall be received for storage at the State warehouse, and the charges for same shall be fixed by the State warehouse commission. Each bale of cotton shall be weighed, graded and numbered, so as to be identified at all times. The grades to be according to the standard grades adopted by the United States government. The person depositing the cotton shall be given a receipt from the State of South Carolina, signed by the manager of the State

warehouse, which receipt shall give the weight, grade and number of each bale. The receipt to be transferable only by the written assignment and the cotton which it represents deliverable only upon the production of the receipt, which is to be marked 'canceled' when the cotton is taken from the warehouse. All cotton on storage shall be fully insured."

Mileage Bill Passed House.

The house passed the Carlisle mileage bill to a third reading by a vote of 73 to 10. The measure was passed by the senate last year and was continued by the house at the last session until February 1, 1912.

The Carlisle bill, which passed the senate last session, after determined opposition, and got by its second reading in the house, follows:

"Be it enacted by the general assembly of South Carolina:

"Section 1. That any railroad company selling mileage books for transportation is hereby required to receive coupons from mileage books sold by said railroad company, on its trains for transportation within the State and to check baggage for passengers upon presentation of said mileage book.

"Sec. 2. This act shall go into effect May 1, 1912."

Sustained Veto on Commission.

Acting upon the recommendation of the judiciary committee, the house sustained by a vote of 95 to 0 Gov. Bleasdale's veto of the act allowing Charleston, Greenville, Greenwood and other South Carolina cities to vote on adopting the commission form of government at its morning session Thursday.

House Passes Anti-Racing Bill.

The "anti-racing" bill, as it is called, passed the house. The opponents of the Erckmann-Osborne bill at no time mustered more than 25 to 30 votes and were hopeless in the moral whirlpool. Each and every amendment was killed without a murmur, and towards the end of the fight the overwhelming vote, 85 to 25, got every one in a good humor.

The bill goes to the senate. No vote was taken on the final passage of the bill, as the opponents of the measure saw it was useless.

Senate Passed Medical Bill.

The bill providing for a system of medical examination for school children and students at colleges, also teachers and inmates of such institutions, passed the senate Friday morning and was sent to the house for the amendments to be voted on. This bill originated in the house. Practically all the morning session of the senate was devoted to debate on this measure, and several amendments to it were offered. The Laney amendment to leave it optional with parents in certain counties to designate what physician they desire to examine their child was carried.

The measure, as enacted, provides for the examination of students, teachers and attendants at schools and colleges by a regularly appointed physician, chosen by the board of trustees of each individual school or college.

Governor's Veto Was Overruled.

Thursday morning the senate, by a vote of 29 for and 0 against, passed over the governor's veto the bill providing for an assistant superintendent of education for counties with a population of between 82,000 and 85,000. This bill is a local measure, as Spartanburg county is the only county in the State that has a population between these figures. The committee on education recommended the passage of this bill over the veto.

FOR STATE HOUSE PLANS.

Architects' claim of \$13,500 Now Before House Committee.

Columbia, Feb. 3.—The ways and means committee is considering a bill for \$13,500 for plans for remodeling the State house. The plans were made by Mr. A. W. Todd, of Charleston. The claim for the fee is based on this agreement:

The Agreement.

State of South Carolina. This agreement entered into this 27 day of September, 1911, by and between F. M. Bryan, chairman and W. W. Dixon, secretary, acting as a sub-committee, under authority of the committee on State house and grounds, commissioned by his excellency, the governor, for this purpose, party of the first part, hereinafter for brevity styled the committee, and A. W. Todd and J. D. Benson, copartners, doing business under the name of Todd & Benson, parties of the second part, hereinafter for brevity styled the architects:

Witnesseth:

(1) That whereas, the committee,

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acting under authority vested in them by the general committee on State House and grounds, have by this agreement commissioned the said architects to make up plans, estimates, etc., for the improvements to the State capitol building, and to perform such other duties as are usually required of architects in such work.

Now this agreement:

Witnesseth:

That in consideration of the services so heretofore rendered and so to be rendered that the architects are to be paid for such services in accordance with the fees established by the American Institute of Architects. As per schedule hereto attached.

In witness whereof, the parties to these presents have hereunto set their hands and seals the day and year above first written.

F. M. Bryan, (L. S.) Ch'm'n.

W. W. Dixon, Secretary.

Drawings and Plaster Model.

The drawings distributed are excellent, and the architects have, at much expense, had a plaster model prepared to show how the work will look when completed. This model is on exhibition in the State house.

The claim is now before the ways and means committee, and there is a question being raised as to whether the committee had authority to make a contract for \$13,500.

As a part of a general proposition a resolution has been offered looking to submitting to the voters of the State a bond issue of a million dollars for the proposed extension and improvement of the State house.

AGAINST MILL MERGER PROBE.

Report of Senate Judiciary Committee on Concurrent Resolution.

Columbia, Feb. 3.—The senate judiciary committee, to which was committed a concurrent resolution introduced by Senator W. J. Johnson calling for an investigation of cotton mill mergers in the State, has replied to the senate that it does not advise an investigation.

Recently the judiciary committee held a public hearing on the mill merger question, at which Mr. L. W. Parker, president of the Parker Cotton Mills company, and Mr. H. J. Haynesworth, attorney for the same company, made speeches in opposition to any

legislation against the so-called mergers.

The governor recently sent a message to the general assembly in which he asked an investigation of the Parker company, on the ground that the company was a combination that might some day become a monopoly. The message, with the resolution calling for an investigation, was referred to the judiciary committee.

The report of the committee is as follows:

"The judiciary committee, to whom was referred the governor's message, No. 22, having reference to the Parker Cotton Mills company, and suggesting the advisability of an investigation on the part of the legislature as to such company and its organization, begs leave to report:

"That this committee has carefully considered the governor's message; that it has had before it at a public hearing the president of the Parker Cotton Mills company. This committee having itself no information, and having received no evidence, justifying the charge, feels that nothing will be accomplished by an investigation of its character.

"It therefore reports that no further action is necessary with regard to said message and recommends that it be discharged from further consideration thereof."

The Latest Myth.

Chester Lantern. It now develops that that "Felder book on Bleasdale" was only a myth. Mr. Felder says that no such book has been published. He is anxious to testify before the investigating committee, however, but he had better take our advice and stay away from the State. He is likely to be arrested if he enters South Carolina and if convicted he would receive very little mercy at the hands of the present governor.

Illumination Ahead.

Chester Lantern. Mind what we are going to tell you, the chief executive is going to make political timber of the veto bills in the legislature. The friends of the governor in both branches of the general assembly have had their hand concealed—trying to make his (the governor's) enemies feel confident that the plum is theirs without working hard for it. The governor's strength hasn't been measured so far in the house, and there's a reason for it.

Pension Notice.

I will be in the auditor's office each Saturday in January to prepare pension applications.

W. G. Peterson,
Pension Commissioner.

* **AT THE THEATRE.** *

Coming Attractions.

February 22—The Lyman Twins.
February 27—The Cow and the Moon.
March 29—A Woman of the Hour.
April 6—Christy Bros. Minstrels.
April 24—The Traveling Salesman.

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